

feel his loss so acutely here in this body. But his voice still echoes in this Chamber, and his spirit and fierce dedication to justice live on. What so many of us loved about Paul was that unparalleled passion he had for doing what was right. That still inspires me today, as it inspires so many others. And it is just one more reason to be thankful to Paul, and to honor his memory.

I think of Paul often as issues come before the Senate about which he cared so deeply. Earlier this month, as we observed Mental Illness Awareness Week, I thought of all Paul did to advocate for mental health parity throughout his time here, and what a vital contribution he made to getting affordable medical treatment to people suffering from mental illnesses. I have been proud to support this issue when it has come to the floor, and last week I joined the entire Democratic caucus in urging the majority leader to take up and pass the Senator Paul Wellstone Mental Health Equitable Treatment Act of 2003. We must ensure that mental illnesses are treated the same way as other physical illnesses by insurers.

Paul also fought to stop U.S. companies that move their headquarters to "tax haven" countries to avoid paying U.S. taxes from getting Federal procurement contracts. I am proud to be a part of the effort to move that forward. I also am proud to help carry on Paul's work in the fight for a good public education for every child. Paul believed, as I do, that every child is entitled to a good education no matter his or her circumstances in life. He called this "equality of opportunity." I was proud to work with him on the issue of standardized testing. He and I agreed that over-testing of our public school students is not the cure-all for public education. I hope that my efforts to return authority for decisions about how often to test students to the States and local school districts will, in some small way, build upon Paul's legacy of fighting for a level playing field for all students.

These are just a few of the causes Paul worked on, and just a few of the ways that he lives on in this body, and in the lives of the countless Americans he touched through his lifetime. We can still hear his voice echo in this chamber, urging all of us on to build a more just world. Let us honor Paul's memory by heeding his words, and carrying on the great work of our dear friend.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I will describe one such crime that took place in El Paso, TX. In April

2002, police qualified the murder of Hector Arturo Diaz as a hate crime. Mr. Diaz was shot in the back by an acquaintance, Justen Hall. At the time, Mr. Diaz, a transvestite, was dressed in female clothing.

I believe that Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. By passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MUSEUM

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, tomorrow, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum will mark its 10th anniversary. More than 6,000 Holocaust survivors and family members will visit the museum this weekend to help commemorate the museum's important contributions. Together, these men and women comprise a living legacy of the Shoah. By sharing their memories, these courageous survivors can help ensure that such evil is never again perpetrated against any people, anywhere.

America is a land of immigrants, and our history demonstrates that we are stronger because of our diversity, not in spite of it. But we can only live up to the promise of our diversity if we recognize the inherent rights and freedom of all human life. One of the most powerful ways we can remind each other and our children about the importance of this fundamental principle is to ensure that the Holocaust is never forgotten.

For that reason it is fitting that the Holocaust Memorial Museum is located on the National Mall. Visitors to this cherished landmark can see the Declaration of Independence, the Wright brothers' glider, and some of America's most treasured art; all of them vivid reminders about the capacity of the human spirit and the promise of mankind. Yet it is just as important to teach young people and remind adults about one of the darkest chapters of human history. Although the Holocaust was a terrible tragedy that stained all humanity, it must never be hidden from view.

The Holocaust Memorial Museum plays a special role in teaching our children and grandchildren about this dark chapter in world history. This haunting permanent memorial will ensure that future generations will learn about this tragedy.

Survivors and liberators of the Holocaust have a unique opportunity to share the stories of this awful period. I thank them for having the courage and dignity to survive the horrors of the Holocaust, and for having the bravery to share their experiences with others so that it may never happen again. Their contributions will help all of us build a better America and a better world.

U.S. POLICY TOWARD CUBA

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise today to address an issue of great concern to me—the ban on travel to Cuba.

Last week, the Senate scored an important victory in the fight to bring common sense to U.S. policy toward Cuba. We voted by a wide margin—59 to 36—to suspend enforcement of the travel ban. The House approved the same amendment in September, also by a wide margin.

The wide margin of victory reflects the majority of Americans who want an end to the travel ban.

Over the weekend, editorial writers from a diverse range of newspapers noted and applauded our victory: the Wall Street Journal, the New York Times, the Chicago Tribune, and the Orlando Sentinel-Tribune.

Let me offer just a few quotes: the Chicago Tribune says:

In an age of very real terrorist threats, Cuba hardly makes the list. For the Department of Homeland Security to redouble its efforts and tie up more money and personnel in enforcing the travel ban against Cuba—as the president proposed two weeks ago—is an incredible waste of resources.

The New York Times points out:

The proper response to such outrages as the Castro regime's roundup of dissidents and writers earlier this year is to seek to overwhelm the island with American influence.

And the Orlando Sentinel argues:

The ban on U.S. travel is futile, self-defeating, a waste of scarce resources and inconsistent with other American policies.

These papers spoke out in favor of the Senate's actions because they recognize that the current policy has been a failure and because they know that engagement with Cuba is the best and most effective way to bring democratic change to Cuba.

In my view, the Cuba travel provisions should not even be subject to conference. The House and Senate have passed the same amendment; there is nothing for conferees to discuss.

There are many Members of this body who have worked hard to ease the embargo. Any Treasury-Transportation conference report that does not include the Senate and House-passed language is unacceptable, and we will look at all procedural options to stop this from happening.

That said, I fully expect this amendment to become law. Despite recent incorrect reporting, none of the supporters of this legislation believe that we can't accomplish our goal of lifting the Cuba travel ban.

And I have to say here that I do not believe the President will veto this bill. Of course, the Cuba provisions have overwhelming support, but the appropriations bill itself passed the Senate 90 to 3. The administration knows a veto could be easily overridden.

I do believe that pro-embargo forces see the writing on the wall. Momentum to end the embargo is clearly building. We have had a year filled with success.